

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 26, 2001

SENATE BILL

No. 500

Introduced by Senators Torlakson, Machado, and Perata
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Aroner)

February 22, 2001

An act to add Section 743.2 to the Public Utilities Code, relating to public utilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 500, as amended, Torlakson. Public utilities: rates: involuntary electric service interruptions.

~~Existing law, the~~

~~The Public Utilities Act,~~ requires the creation and operation of an Independent System Operator to ensure efficient use and reliable operation of the state's electricity transmission grid consistent with achievement of specified planning and operating reserve criteria. A violation of the act is a crime.

This bill would require that a consumer of electricity located ~~not more than 20 miles from~~ *within close proximity, as defined,* of an electric power generation facility receive a discount of 20% on electricity rates and be exempt from involuntary electric service interruptions during any state of emergency declared by the Independent Service Operator, if the facility (1) was licensed by the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission on or after January 1, 1999, and (2) is capable of producing 50 megawatts or more.

Since a violation of the bill's prohibition would be a crime under existing law, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program by changing the definition of a crime.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 743.2 is added to the Public Utilities
2 Code, to read:

3 743.2. A consumer of electricity located ~~not more than 20~~
4 ~~miles from~~ *within close proximity of* an electric power generation
5 facility shall receive a discount of 20 percent on electricity rates
6 and shall be exempt from involuntary electric service interruptions
7 during any state of emergency declared by the Independent
8 Service Operator, if the facility meets ~~both of the following~~
9 ~~criteria~~; *the criteria set forth in subdivisions (a) and (b). For the*
10 *purposes of this section, "close proximity" means a circle with a*
11 *circumference of 20 miles with the facility at its center.*

12 (a) The facility was licensed by the State Energy Resources
13 Conservation and Development Commission on or after January
14 1, 1999.

15 (b) The facility is capable of producing 50 megawatts or more.

16 SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
17 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
18 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
19 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or
20 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty
21 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of
22 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within
23 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
24 Constitution.

